

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
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HA-05 /109 W

-----003278 071037Z /21

O 071012Z MAR 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6848  
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 03508

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM  
SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION--1503 PROCEDURES,  
U.S. STATEMENT ON URUGUAY

1. DEBATE ON SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN URUGUAY UNDER  
CONFIDENTIAL PROCEDURES OF ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1503 WAS  
OPENED BY CUBAN REP (LECHUGA), WHO DELIVERED SHARP  
ATTACK ON URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.  
NEXT SPEAKER WAS URUGUAYAN HRC REP GIAMBRUNO, WHO DEFENDED  
SITUATION IN URUGUAY, CITING EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES WHICH  
HAD BEEN MADE NECESSARY BY TUPAMARO INSURGENT MOVEMENT.  
GIAMBRUNO INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS STRICTLY  
ADHERING TO THE LAW AND THAT THE PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY  
WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESIGN IF HE WERE CONVINCED THAT  
TORTURE BY GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS WAS TAKING PLACE.

2. USREP MEZVINSKY STRESSED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE  
URUGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT  
THAT THE SUBCOMMISSION WORKING GROUP HAD IDENTIFIED THE  
URUGUAYAN SITUATION BY UNANIMOUS VOTE. THE SUBCOMMISSION  
IN TURN HAD REFERRED THE SITUATION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
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COMMISSION BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY (17-1-6).  
HE REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO THE COMMUNICATION FROM AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL WHICH ENCLOSED A COPY OF A PETITION SIGNED  
BY NEARLY 350,000 INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING AN INVESTIGATION  
OF ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE. MEZVINSKY NOTED THAT THE  
DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING THE URUGUAYAN CASE WAS AMONG  
THE STRONGEST OF THE 10 CASES BEING CONSIDERED BY THE HRC.

HE REFERRED TO THE FAILURE OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO PROPOSALS FOR OUTSIDE IMPARTIAL INQUIRIES, NOTING SPECIFICALLY THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW A VISIT BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE OAS. CLOSING HIS STATEMENT MEZVINSKY ASKED ABOUT SPECIFIC CASES WHICH HAD RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION. HE REQUESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY SUPPLY INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF A NUMBER OF URUGUAYANS WHO WERE ALLEGED EITHER TO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN CONSEQUENCE OF ABUSE OR TORTURE, TO HAVE DISAPPEARED IN URUGUAY, OR TO HAVE BEEN DETAINED WITHOUT ADEQUATE EXPLANATION. AMONG THE NAMES CITED BY MEZVINSKY WERE: THE WIDOW OF DEPUTY SOARES NETTO, JULIO CASTRO (FORMER UNESCO OFFICIAL), SCHUMANN PACHECO (PROFESSOR OF PENAL LAW AT THE LAW SCHOOL OF MONTEVIDEO UNIVERSITY), GONZALEZ MENTHOL (FORMER DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY), AND ESTRELLA AVILA BORGES (WORLD FAMOUS PIANIST).

3. AT SENATOR WILSON ALDUNATE FERREIRA'S REQUEST, MEZVINSKY MET WITH HIM AT THE UN PALAIS. THEN AT A FOLLOW-UP PRIVATE MEETING WITH OTHER URUGUAYAN EXILES IN THE PRESENCE OF AN OFFICIAL OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, MR. WILLIAM WIPFLER, HE WAS GIVEN A DOCUMENT CONTAINING THESE AND OTHER NAMES. COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENT POUCHED TO DEPT (IO-DALLEY) AND AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO. AFTER  
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ENDING HIS STATEMENT MEZVINSKY PASSED A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT TO AMBASSADOR GIAMBRUNO.

4. FOR MONTEVIDEO: MEZVINSKY WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON CASES DESCRIBED IN THIS DOCUMENT. SORENSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES  
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**Draft Date:** 07 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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